The Metal Men were six DC Comic Book heroes for nearly four decades. Their superpowers and personalities were based on the physical and chemical properties of the metal from which they were made: Iron, Gold, Lead, Tin, Mercury and Platinum. For example, Iron was strong and dependable but not very flexible, Lead was solid but not very firm and not very bright, and Mercury was... well, let's just say that he knew how to go with the flow. Platinum was bright and beautiful, like the metal, and cast in a female shape.

Gold Iron Lead Tin Mercury Platinum

Have you ever imagined yourself as a superhero? Leaping tall buildings in a single bound? Flying faster than a speeding bullet?  Well, you are about to get the chance to join those superhuman comic figures and create your own elemental superhero! Every superhero will be unique because every element on the periodic table has its own unique physical and chemical properties. First, you will research and learn everything that you can about your assigned element's discovery, history, properties and uses. You will record this information on your Element Information Sheet. As you collect this information, think about how each property could apply to your superhero’s appearance, personality, powers, or weaknesses. Next, you will use this information to create a super-powered personification of your element. Build up your superhero by applying one element property at a time as a physical feature or personality trait. Then, incorporate the trait as a visible part of your drawing of your superhero. As science fiction, your superhero and everything he or she does should be as accurate and logical in its representation of the current scientific and technical knowledge about your element. Have fun and be creative, but stick to the guidelines.

1. **Complete the Element Information Sheet.**

Use the approved websites provided to research your element and complete the information sheet. All parts of the information sheets must be filled out. If one of the properties does not apply to your element, write “not applicable.”

1. **Create your superhero.**

Use the Superhero Planning sheet to plan how your superhero will represent your element. Make sure your superhero has at least 5 unique powers and/or weaknesses that are based on the properties of your element.

1. **Draw your superhero.**

On an unlined paper, draw your superhero. Your drawing should be neat, detailed, and colorful. Your drawing must include:

* The element’s main color, symbol and atomic number somewhere on the superhero’s uniform.
* Your superhero’s name clearly visible and written in large print.
* At least 5 powers/weaknesses based on the properties of your element **labeled** and explained.

1. **Assemble your Superhero Trading Card.**

Glue your superhero drawing and your completed Element Information Sheet back-to-back on the provided piece of cardstock. Use the Superhero Trading Card Checklist to make sure you have met all of the requirements.

**Optional Extra Credit Challenge:** Create a story in which your hero/heroine saves the school, city, planet, or entire multiverse. Your story can either be written in paragraph format (1 to 1 ½ pages typed double-spaced in 12-point font or **neatly** handwritten) OR in comic strip format with 6-8 illustrated story frames.